BENGALURU, FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 20 | Humidity 68% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 82,259 | Nifty 25,111 | Gold 99,330 | Silver 1,14,000 | Dollar 86.08 | Euro 100.09 | GBP 114.98

## Painful wait

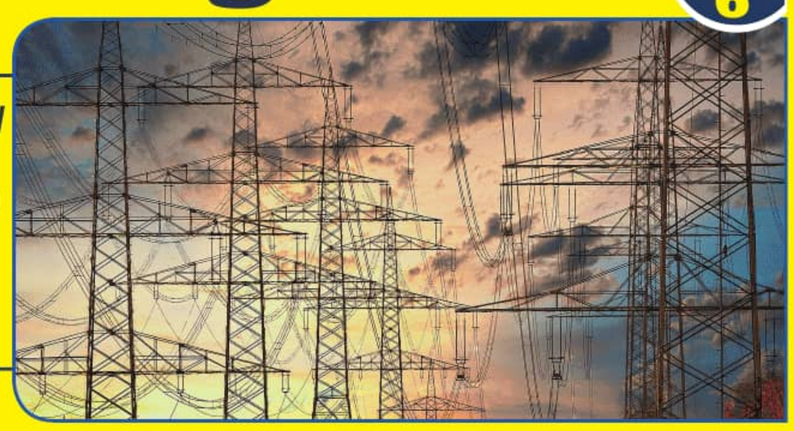
CITY PAGE 5

Frustration boils over as 4 years after govt notified 402 posts for Police Sub-Inspectors, selected candidates still await appointment orders

## Fully charged

CITY PAGE 6

16.89% increase in electricity production as compared to last year has enabled state to not only meet its domestic needs but also to export power to other states



## Candies that look like prescription-based tablets and syringes may appeal to kids, but hidden danger of children mistakenly consuming actual pills has put parents on the edge

# ALL IS NOT DANDY WITH THIS CANDY

### Adult medications can have toxic effect on kids, warn experts

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Remember the Phantom Cigarette candy of the 90s?

More dangerously shaped candies have now made their way to multiple petty shops in the city and are gaining popularity among young children.

These colourful candies come in blister packaging with shapes and colours mimicking many prescription-based adult medications used as painkillers, antibiotics, and supplements. Last but not least, there is a syringe-shaped candy as well, which has caught the fancy of school children.

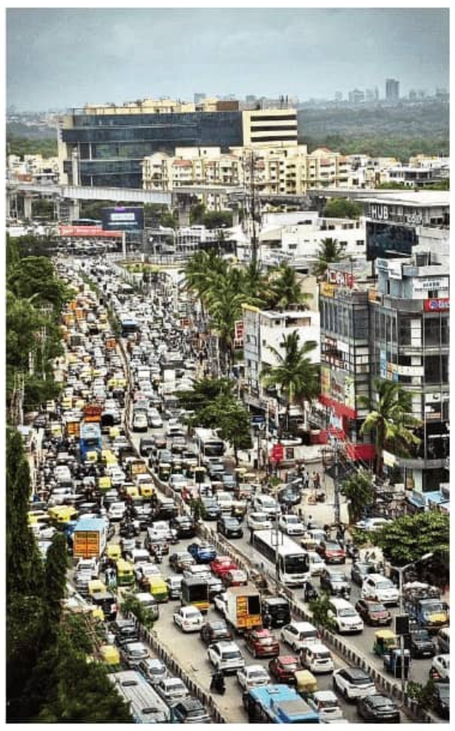
It is no coincidence that the shops selling these visually appealing pill candies are also located close to schools.

"I noticed these pill-like candies at a petty store located in Raghavendra Colony in Vidyaranyapuraura. I assumed these are prescription-based tablets and wondered why a petty shop was selling medicine without a licence. I asked the shopkeeper and he said these are not medicines but candies for children. They are available in various flavours like orange, mint, strawberry, etc. The syringes are filled with chocolate cream. I was shocked," said a parent from Vidyaranyapuraura.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Candies in the shape and form of prescribed medications will leave a bad influence on children. Syringes filled with chocolate cream today might normalise drug injections in the minds of children**
>
> —D Shashikumar, KAMS

## Break the deadlock



As vehicles have to inch at 5 km/hr speed on Sarjapur Road during peak hours, commuters demand proper traffic management

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Commuters are struggling to navigate Sarjapur Road during peak hours due to congestion and the absence of regulation and management of traffic flow. The commuters, especially those who have to take the road to get to their workplaces, are not able to reach their destinations on time due to the never-ending traffic snarls. Some commuters told BM that the jams are such that they are having to move at 5 km per hour.

Vishnu Prasad, who commutes to Dodda Nekkundi from Bellandur during the weekdays, said that it has become tough for him to reach his office at Doddanekundi. "Earlier, I used to reach my office in 45 minutes. Now, I need one-and-half hours to reach my office due to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Acoustic evening

Ease into the weekend with Wild West Fridays, an acoustic live set series celebrating jazz, folk, and soft rock. Featuring FingerChips live. **Where: The Drawing Room, Indiranagar; When: July 18, 8.00 pm**

### 02 Conscious bazaar

Explore 130+ women-led brands across sustainable fashion, wellness, artisanal food, beauty, and more at this first-of-its-kind, purpose-driven showcase by FICCI FLO Bengaluru. **Where: Anantya, Gate 9, Palace Grounds; When: July 18, 9 am – 9 pm**

### 03 Styling showcase

Discover 'Couture on the Table' with Shivan & Narresh — a creative masterclass reimagining tablescapes with signature design flair. **Where: Anantya, Gate 9, Palace Grounds When: July 18, 3 pm**

### 04 Stage stories

SmaranniK Theatre Festival returns with a day-long celebration of Bengali theatre, featuring four powerful plays with iconic names like Chandan Sen, Debsankar Halder, and Goutam Halder. **Where: MLR Convention Centre (1st Floor), JP Nagar; When: July 26, 3 pm onwards**

### 05 Temple tales

A 90-minute classical dance theatrical by GoBrahma Productions featuring 40+ artists, celebrating the sacred Sri Venugopala Krishnaswamy Temple and its riverine mythology. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: July 30, 11 am & 7 pm**

### 06 Linguistic selves

A talk by Rita Kothari on how English intersects with personal identity, multilingualism, and linguistic democracy in everyday life. **Where: Bangalore International Centre (BIC); When: July 20, 6.30 pm – 8 pm**

# 10,000 acres of forest land will be encroachment-free

## Shivamogga, Canara, and Chikkamagaluru top forest eviction list; wildlife activists demand stricter action against erring forest officials

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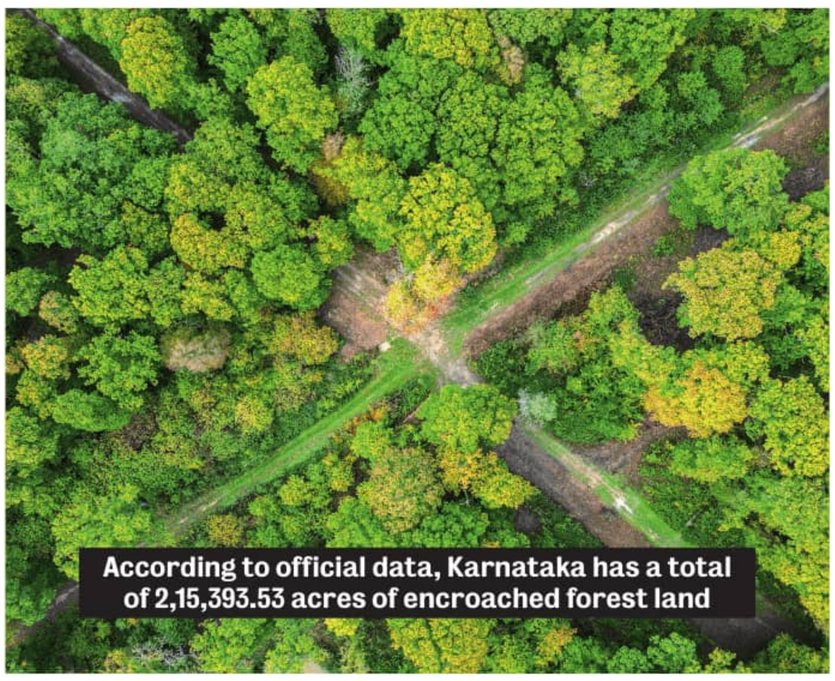

According to official data, Karnataka has a total of 2,15,393.53 acres of encroached forest land

**Wildlife conservationists demand that circle-level officers be held accountable under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963**

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has set a target to clear 10,000 acres of forest land from encroachment across the state in the current fiscal year. This move is part of a larger push to reclaim lost forest cover and restore ecological balance. The department has identified specific acreages for eviction drives in different forest circles.

In Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapur, and Bannerghatta National Park, around 750 acres have been marked for clearance. The highest target has been assigned to Shivamogga district, where 3,650 acres are set to be reclaimed. Canara circle follows with 1,450 acres, and Chikkamagaluru has been allotted 1,250 acres for eviction.

According to official data, Karnataka has a total of 2,15,393.53 acres of encroached forest land. Shivamogga has the highest share at 79,560.69 acres, followed by Canara circle with 28,033.26 acres and Chikkamagaluru with 27,183.9 acres. The Bengaluru circle currently has 15,070.71 acres under encroachment.

The eviction process will be monitored using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and officials will conduct monthly reviews to assess progress. The efforts will be guided by the 2015 Karnataka government order that prohibits eviction from forest lands measuring less than three acres. However, environmentalists and wildlife conservationists have expressed concern over the implementation of these targets. Many argue that without fixing accountability, such eviction targets remain on paper. They say circle heads, Deputy Conservators of Forests (DCFOs), Assistant Conservators of Forests (ACFs), and Range Forest Officers (RFOs) should be held responsible for failing to meet targets or prevent fresh encroachments.

"Thousands of acres are under illegal occupation, but the department rarely takes disciplinary action against the officers concerned," said a conservationist. In 2018, a circular issued by the then Head of Forest Force had directed disciplinary action against officials in case of fresh encroachments, but it was never enforced effectively.

Experts also warn that new encroachments continue without consequence. "There is no deterrent. Accountability is missing, and that's why forest land keeps disappearing," said another expert.

They emphasise that unless structural reforms are introduced and implemented strictly, the recurring issue of forest encroachment will persist. Without enforcement, they caution, annual targets risk becoming routine announcements with little impact on the ground.

# CM flags faulty Kannada translations on meta apps

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has raised concerns over faulty auto-translation of Kannada content on Meta platforms like Facebook and Instagram, calling it misleading and potentially dangerous, especially when it involves official communication. His media advisor has formally written to Meta, seeking urgent corrective measures.

"Faulty auto-translation of Kannada content on Meta platforms is distorting facts and misleading users. My media advisor has formally written to Meta urging immediate correction," Siddaramaiah posted on 'X'. He urged citizens to be cautious, warning in automated translations could damage public trust and understanding. In an email sent to Meta on July 16, the Chief Minister's media advisor, K V Prabhakar, expressed serious concern. He said automatic translations from Kannada to English are "frequently inaccurate and grossly misleading."

"This poses a significant risk when official messages from the government are mistranslated. Users may not realise they are reading an inaccurate machine translation instead of the original message," he noted. The letter urged Meta to temporarily suspend the auto-translation feature for Kannada until the translation quality improves. It called for collaboration with qualified Kannada experts to enhance accuracy. "Misrepresentation of public communication from a constitutional authority is unacceptable," Prabhakar stated. **— BMB**

# CCTV watch across college campuses

To curb ragging, drug abuse, and other illegal activities on campuses, the Karnataka Department of Higher Education has made CCTV surveillance mandatory in all colleges. The directive covers public and private universities, along with government, private, and aided degree and polytechnic colleges.

Earlier implemented in engineering institutions, the order now extends to all higher education institutions under the department's purview. Citing rising concerns over student involvement in substance abuse, ragging, and sexual harassment, officials have instructed college principals and university heads to take immediate action. Colleges with existing CCTV systems must submit an operational status report by July 21. **— BMB**

# Govt rolls back some IPS transfers

In a sudden revision to its police reshuffle, the Karnataka government on Thursday rolled back some of the IPS transfers it had announced just three days ago. Dr. Chandragupta, who was posted as IGP Northeastern Range, Kalburgi, has now been appointed IGP, Intelligence. The current IGP, YS Ravi Kumar, has been moved to the CID. Shantanu Sinha will now take over as DIGP, Northeastern Range.

Simi Mariam George will continue as Joint Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), while Gopal M Byakod, who was earlier named her replacement, has instead been posted as DCP Traffic (Bengaluru South). The transfer of Jitendra Kumar Dayama as DCP (Law and Order), Mangaluru City, has been cancelled. He will remain SP, Anti-Naxal Force, Udupi. Mithun HN has been appointed in his place as DCP (Law and Order), Mangaluru. **— BMB**

# UG-NEET: Fake documents case filed

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has filed a case against a man after he was named in a candidate's submission of allegedly forged documents during the UG-NEET 2025 seat allotment verification process. The complaint was lodged by Madhusudhan Chelur Suresh, KEA's administrative officer. According to the complaint, Nayana NN, a UG-NEET applicant, had submitted documents to claim a seat under the NRI quota. However, during scrutiny, officials found inconsistencies in the documents.

Upon inquiry, Nayana's father, ND Narase Gowda, appeared before the KEA and said that a person named Raghu from Nelamangala had promised an NRI quota seat in exchange for money. He admitted paying Rs. 5,000 and claimed ignorance about Madhusudhan Suresh, whose name was falsely used in the documents. **— BMB**

# Stronger mobile network on metro lines

To address poor mobile network coverage along metro routes, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is installing Wi-Fi-enabled cellular infrastructure at stations. The initiative includes deploying IBS systems, BTS cellular towers, and poles to enable uninterrupted 4G and 5G connectivity for commuters.

BMRCL has signed a 13-year lease agreement with Advanced Communication and Electronics Systems (ACES) India to provide continuous mobile coverage across Phase 2 metro lines — including both elevated and underground sections. The system will be especially beneficial to passengers travelling between Dairy Circle and Nagawara, which includes 12 underground stations currently facing frequent signal issues.

In addition to improving passenger convenience, the move is expected to generate non-fare revenue for BMRCL through fees levied for Wi-Fi usage. ACES India will also manage the mobile network infrastructure at stations under Phase 1 extensions and Phase 2's Reach-5 and Reach-6 corridors. **— BMB**

# Bribery complaint puts cops under lens

## Complainant submits audio-visual evidence of police extorting money under guise of enforcing tobacco sale laws; Commission seeks detailed report by Sep 10

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The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has ordered an inquiry into allegations of harassment and extortion by police personnel attached to the Varthur Police Station. The complaint, filed on July 3 by a resident of the migrant labourers' colony in and around Varthur, accuses police of routinely collecting weekly and monthly bribes from shopkeepers and threatening those who resist with legal action under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), a law that mandates a valid licence to sell tobacco products, including loose cigarettes.

Taking cognisance of the matter on July 5, the Commission directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Whitefield Division, to investigate the allegations, initiate necessary action, and submit a detailed report by September 10. The case will next be heard by the Commission on September 11.

The complainant, a local shopkeeper representing vendors and labourers in the Varthur area, submitted audio and video recordings allegedly showing police personnel collecting bribes ranging from ₹200 to ₹13,000 from nearly 100 petty shops. He claimed that officers were threatening to book shopkeepers under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) if they refused to pay.

"Harassment escalated after police intensified crackdowns on the sale of loose cigarettes," he said, adding that most of the affected are migrant workers from West Bengal living in informal settlements. "Police are openly collecting money from daily-wage earners and small vendors under the threat of legal action," the complaint stated.

In a particular allegation, the complainant alleged that police forcibly seized his fingerprint machine, which he uses for documentation work related to migrant labourers, and are now demanding ₹3,000 to return it. He also claimed he is being repeatedly summoned to the police station and pressured into compliance.

Bengaluru top cop warns action on corrupt, negligent staff

**Complainant claims police forcibly took his fingerprint machine, now demanding Rs 3,000 for its return**

### Police personnel top list in corruption complaints

The SHRC's intervention comes amid mounting concerns over police misconduct across the state. The Karnataka Lokayukta has flagged a surge in complaints against police personnel, with corruption and negligence emerging as the most frequent allegations.

Recent incidents have further exposed the depth of the problem. In one case, a sub-inspector in Sarjapur was caught red-handed accepting a ₹25,000 bribe, part of a ₹50,000 demand, to register a complaint related to a family dispute. He was arrested in a Lokayukta-led operation and booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The case highlights a disturbing trend of unlawful monetary demands and manipulation of legal processes at the station level.

The Bengaluru Police Commissioner, Seemant Kumar Singh, has reiterated that corruption and dereliction of duty among police personnel will not be tolerated, and strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

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# Residents slam BBMP, railways over footpath neglect, damage

## Despite year-long development by ITC, BBMP's post-completion objections and railway construction threaten the newly built pedestrian path's integrity

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Residents of Cooke Town and Pottery Road are worried about the fate of the footpath along the railway property that was recently developed under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative by an Indian multinational conglomerate company. If the condition of the footpath is any indication, it seems there is no coordination between the railway authorities and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Major Roads Department.

According to Albert R, Founder Member of Cooke Town Residents' Welfare Association, ITC Limited has taken up the development of the footpath which was in a pathetic condition. "We are grateful to ITC management for allocating funds for the development of the footpath. The BBMP authorities have allowed ITC to develop the footpath. Now, it is time for the BBMP authorities to reclaim the footpath and maintain it, but the BBMP authorities have instructed the contractor to demolish stone barriers or pedestals constructed around the trees by leaving sufficient space for percolation of rainwater. The development of the footpath took more than a year. No BBMP engineer bothered to inspect the footpath work till the completion of the work. Now, the BBMP authorities have directed the contractor to remove the stone barriers around the trees," said Albert.

Left: Newly constructed stone barricade around the tree on Pottery Road; Right: A portion of the railings is set to fall on the road

The residents want the BBMP authorities to take over the footpath that was developed under the CSR initiative. "What is the use of objecting after completing the footpath work? The BBMP engineers, instead of objecting or finding faults, should have coordinated with the railway contractor or railway authorities to avoid damage to the grills and the footpath. The expansion of the railway track and construction of the compound wall of the railway station are in progress. The development of the footpath should have been taken up only after railway expansion work is completed to avoid damage to the footpath and grills," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

> **"The development of the footpath should have been taken up only after railway expansion work was completed to avoid damage to the footpath and grills**
> – A Resident

The residents complain that some of the grills along the footpath are missing and a portion of the grills is set to fall on the road thus posing a danger to unwary motorists. "I appeal to the BBMP authorities to strengthen the grills along the footpath to avoid accidents in future," said a resident.

However, BBMP Executive Engineer (Sarvagna Nagar) Fateh Mahammad said the contractor has to leave sufficient space for the pedestrians to walk on the footpath by reducing the width of the stone barriers around the trees. "There is not much space between the stone barriers around the trees and the compound wall being constructed by the railways. We have asked the contractor to ensure sufficient space for the benefit of pedestrians," he said.

# Railways clear drain, rebuild wall

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Residents of Hutchins Road in Cooke Town have finally found some relief after years of grappling with flooding and poor drainage. The railway authorities have demolished the crumbling compound wall of Banaswadi Railway Station and have initiated construction of a new one. In a welcome move, they have also cleared the silt and debris from the stormwater drain running alongside the station.

This long-awaited action comes after years of complaints by residents and civic activists about repeated waterlogging on the stretch.

Bangalore Mirror had highlighted this recurring issue on June 9, 2025

During every heavy rain, Hutchins Road would turn into a virtual pond, severely inconveniencing pedestrians and damaging property. The situation was especially dire for those living near the railway compound wall, where water would stagnate for hours due to choked drains.

Bangalore Mirror had highlighted this recurring issue in its June 9, 2025, story titled Recurring Flooding Drowns Hutchins Road in Miseries. The report detailed how residents were demanding immediate desilting and restoration of the drain to ensure smooth rainwater flow. It also featured concerns raised by Albert R, Founder Member of the Cooke Town Residents' Welfare Association, who had warned that the weak and broken compound wall posed a risk to passersby.

Left: The condition of the compound wall of Banaswadi Railway Station; Right: Banaswadi Railway Station compound wall under construction; the storm water drain is already desilted

On Thursday, this correspondent visited the location and found a team of workers engaged in rebuilding the wall. The once-choked drain had also been cleared of silt, improving water flow. Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Albert R expressed his gratitude. "The residents have suffered a lot due to the choked drains and the dangerous wall. I sincerely thank the officials who took action," he said.

Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, a long-time resident, echoed the sentiment. "We've suffered for many years with flooding. With the drain now desilted and the wall under construction, I hope we won't face those issues again," he said. The timely intervention by railway authorities has rekindled hope for a flood-free monsoon for the residents of Hutchins Road — a change that many thoughts would never come.

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### Stinky footpath

**Yelahanka**

The footpath outside a factory, opposite a sweet shop in Yelahanka, remains dirty and foul-smelling, creating a daily hazard for pedestrians.

### Garbage uncleared

**Akshayanagar**

Though a complaint was raised through the BBMP Sahaya app, garbage on 4th Cross, 1st A Main, behind a hotel in Akshayanagar remains uncleared. The request was closed without action.

### Waste zone

**RR Nagar**

BDA Link Road in Channasandra, R R Nagar, is among at least 10 sites where garbage is dumped openly, creating a foul stench and serious health hazards. A permanent cleanup and preventive solution are urgently required.

# RCB parade held without required permissions, says govt

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The State Government has submitted a report to the High Court blaming IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), its event partner DNA Networks Pvt Ltd, and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) for organising the massive public victory parade on June 4 without mandatory permissions or coordination with civic and police authorities.

According to the report, the RCB management failed to formally seek approval as required under the Licensing and Controlling of Assemblies and Processions (Bangalore City) Order, 2009, and instead issued only an intimation hours before the IPL final.

## Police denied permission citing lack of details

On May 26, around 6.30 pm, just before the IPL final between RCB and Punjab Kings in Ahmedabad—KSCA, on behalf of DNA Networks, submitted a letter to the Cubbon Park police stating that in the event of an RCB win, they "intended" to hold a parade culminating in celebrations at M Chinnaswamy Stadium. However,

**The report said it was too late for approvals or arrangements**

the police denied permission due to the absence of critical information such as expected crowd size, security measures, assembly points, timing, and the contact details of organisers. The request, the report said, was made too late for necessary approvals or logistical arrangements.

## Despite denial, parade announced

In defiance of the denial, RCB proceeded with public announcements. At 7:01 am on June 4, RCB shared a social media post declaring a "Victory Parade" starting at Vidhana Soudha and ending at the stadium. By 3:14 pm, another post confirmed the 5:00 pm start and included details of free pass availability, though by then, thousands had already gathered. The four early updates drew massive traction on social media, clocking over 45 lakh views collectively. Metro ridership surged to 9.66 lakh on June 4, compared to the usual 6 lakh, further indicating that more than 3 lakh people may have participated in the event, the report noted.

## No safety

The report outlines several critical oversights by the organisers, including the lack of crowd control plans, trained personnel, loudspeaker permissions, and mandatory payment for police deployment, leaving authorities unprepared for the massive turnout. In response, Bengaluru City Police acted swiftly on June 4, deploying 654 personnel, issuing public advisories, coordinating traffic from HAL to Chinnaswamy.

# 4 years on, PSI recruits wait

## Frustrated by repeated delays, candidates stage protest at Freedom Park demanding immediate action and clarity from government

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A group of 402 candidates selected for the Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) recruitment staged a protest at Freedom Park today from 10 am to 6 pm, voicing their frustration over the prolonged delay in receiving their appointment orders. The All Karnataka State Students Association has appealed to the authorities to issue appointment orders to the 130 selected PSI candidates and 17 women candidates within a week, once the OBC-NCL certificate issue is resolved.

"Even after four years since the Karnataka government notified 402 posts for Police Sub-Inspectors (PSI) in 2021, the selected candidates are still awaiting their appointment orders. Following prolonged delays, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) conducted the PSI exam in October 2024, and the results were declared in December," AKSSA letter addressed to Home Minister G Parameshwara.

Since then, candidates have completed all necessary formalities, including document verification, medical examinations, and submission of Hindutva certificates. However, for the past seven months, they have been going back and forth between the Home Minister's office and concerned officials. Over the last three months, they claim to have been repeatedly assured that the appointment orders would be issued "within a week" or "in 15 days," but there has been no visible progress.

"This protest is being organised to express our concern. It is entirely non-violent, and all measures will be taken to ensure law and order are maintained," stated the organisers in their appeal. Many of the protesting candidates say they have been waiting and fear the opportunity may slip away due to administrative apathy. They demand immediate action and clarity from the authorities.

The Home Minister has now told the media that the High Court has issued directions, and the final selection list will be released, with results expected in a few days. The candidates have not raised any objections to this. They have requested officials to immediately announce the results for the 21 posts in Kalyana Karnataka and finish the process soon, but officials keep giving excuses and delaying it.

**402 candidates protest delay in appointments**

> **This protest is being organised to express our concern. It is entirely non-violent, and all measures will be taken to ensure law and order are maintained** –Organiser

Officials are also saying that the final selection list will be released only after the validity certificate expires. However, due to past delays, the current government in 2018 had given candidates just one month to obtain the validity certificate. They had also stated that if the process was not completed within that time, the certificate would no longer be valid, and only those who got the certificate within a month should receive the appointment orders.

As aspirants' pressure mounts, the government's next move will determine whether the long wait of these aspiring officers finally comes to an end. While the CM has reiterated his commitment to strengthening the police force, the delay raises concerns about whether these promises are merely rhetorical.

Earlier during a police review meeting the CM himself has acknowledged about 16.4% vacancy in the state police department. During a recent police review meeting, he revealed that only 97,219 posts out of the sanctioned strength are currently filled. However, recruitment is set to resume with 4411 positions expected to be filled this year.

CM Siddaramaiah also stressed the need for people-friendly policing and instilling fear of the law among wrongdoers. He announced that recruitment for vacant posts will begin in two months and reminded officers of their duty to uphold constitutional values and ensure justice for all.

Despite this, the recruitment process has faced delays and a lack of transparency. On the other hand, the CM, during the inauguration of the Karnataka State Police Residential Community Hall just yesterday, reaffirmed his government's readiness to provide all necessary resources to strengthen the police force.

Even during the inauguration of the KSPR Community Hall, the Chief Minister acknowledged Bengaluru's rapid growth and urged the need for stronger policing. He announced the decision to increase the number of police divisions from eight to eleven.

# Ranya Rao denied bail for full year

Actress Ranya Rao will remain in jail for up to one year after the Advisory Board under the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) upheld the invocation of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act against her.

The board, in its order on Thursday, directed that no bail petition be entertained on her behalf for a year from the date of her arrest. Accordingly, the DRI informed the jail authorities of the restriction. Though Ranya was granted conditional bail by the Special Court for Economic Offences on May 20, she was not released, as the case falls under the COFEPOSA Act, a preventive detention law. Her mother had challenged the invocation of the Act in court, but the Advisory Board upheld its validity. The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, under the Ministry of Finance, invoked COFEPOSA based on DRI's recommendation. –BMB

# ED raids co-op banks

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at more than 10 locations in Bengaluru on Thursday in connection with the multi-crore Shushruti Co-operative Society fraud case. The raids targeted properties linked to Shushruti, Shruthi, and Shree Lakshmi Souharda Banks, as well as their promoters, including N Shrinivasa Murthy and his family members. The case involves alleged misappropriation of over ₹100 crore from more than 15,000 depositors, who were lured with promises of high interest rates. The funds were reportedly diverted through unsecured loans to insiders, most of which became NPAs. The ED suspects the laundered money was used to acquire properties, violating the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). –BMB

# K'taka powers ahead with record electricity surge

## State boosts output by 1,600 MW, leads in wind energy, meets growing demand, but struggles with inadequate electricity storage infrastructure

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Karnataka has witnessed a 16.89% increase in electricity production compared to last year. The state has ramped up generation by nearly 1,600 MW, enabling it not only to meet its domestic needs but also to export electricity to other states. This development marks a significant turnaround from the power crisis of 2024, as Karnataka now reports no shortage of electricity. Energy Minister K.J. George said that with a 1,600 MW increase this year alone, the state is on track to meet its 60,000 MW production target by 2030.

According to officials from the Energy Department, the surge in electricity generation is being driven by a combination of traditional and renewable sources. "With the expansion of agricultural activities, residential and commercial growth, rising use of home appliances and air-conditioners, and accelerated industrialisation, electricity demand has increased significantly," said an official. "The government has been proactive in utilising alternative sources of energy to meet the rising demand."

In July 2023, Karnataka generated an average of 226.25 million units (9,427 MW) of electricity per day. This year, the average has increased to 264.25 million units (11,020 MW), marking a growth of 38 million units (1,593 MW) per day.

Favourable monsoon conditions have also aided this increase. Early and consistent rainfall has resulted in strong inflows into major reservoirs, significantly boosting hydroelectric generation. In July last year, hydro units generated an average of 58.17 million units daily, whereas this July, the average output has risen to 68 million units, highlighting hydropower's growing role in the state's energy portfolio.

Karnataka has also taken a leading position in wind energy, emerging as the top state in India for wind power generation. Currently, the state generates 1,331.48 MW from wind energy, ahead of Tamil Nadu (1,136.37 MW) and Gujarat (954.74 MW). Its installed capacity is now comparable to that of countries like Sweden and Australia, and greater than South Africa, Portugal, and New Zealand.

Daily electricity output jumps by 38 million units, driven by growing demand and renewable integration and improved generration across energy sectors

> "With a 1,600 MW increase this year, Karnataka is on track to meet its 60,000 MW production target by 2030
>
> –Energy Minister KJ George

Despite the surplus in power production, the lack of a robust electricity storage system remains a challenge. Without storage, excess power cannot be retained for periods of high demand or lower production. At present, the state's daily power demand hovers around 264 million units, met through a combination of central grid allocations and renewable sources like solar and wind.

To better manage this surplus, the state has temporarily halted production at the Raichur Thermal Power Station. Meanwhile, Ballari and Yermarus Thermal Power Stations are generating 26.89 million and 13.10 million units per day respectively.

**Karnataka's Average Daily Power Generation (in Million Units)**

| Source | Daily Generation (MU) |
|---|---|
| KPC Thermal Plants | 43.00 |
| Hydropower | 68.00 |
| Solar Power | 35.50 |
| Wind Power | 55.15 |
| Central Grid Supply (CGS) | 57.00 |
| UPCL | 11.00 |
| Damodar Valley Corporation | 10.00 |

## State-backed coffee brand brewing

With Karnataka coffee gaining high demand both nationally and globally, the state government is planning to introduce an exclusive Karnataka Coffee Brand, modelled on the successful Nandini brand of milk. Just as the Karnataka Milk Federation procures milk from farmers and delivers it under the trusted Nandini label, the state now aims to apply a similar model to coffee, enabling growers to directly reach the market, bypass middlemen, and secure better prices.

The government hopes the initiative will replicate the success of Andhra Pradesh's "Aaraku Coffee," boosting the industry and uplifting small farmers. **–BMB**

## K'taka hosts India's Quantum conclave

The state government will host the country's first Quantum India Conclave on July 31 and August 1. At a pre-event meeting, Ministers NS Boseraju (Science and Technology), MB Patil (Industries), and Priyank Kharge (IT-BT) assured representatives from leading quantum firms of full support to build a robust ecosystem. This includes policy reforms, land allocation, and infrastructure development. Industry leaders highlighted Karnataka's edge in talent, academia, and innovation. Ministers vow to make Karnataka a "Quantum Advantage Driven Economy" by 2035 through phased mission. **–BMB**

## KSRTC staff to strike work from Aug 5

With no clarity from the Karnataka government on salary revision and pending arrears, employees of all four state-run road transport corporations have announced an indefinite strike starting August 5.

Ananth Subbarao, a member of the Joint Action Committee of KSRTC employee unions, said the pay revision due from January 2024 has not been implemented as per norms. In addition, arrears from the previous revision—effective from January 2020 and announced in March 2023—have not been paid for 38 months.Despite repeated appeals, the government has not responded positively, prompting employees to boycott duty from 6 am on August 5. **–BMB**

## Landslide cuts key highway

A landslide near Dharmasthala Cross in Kadaba taluk has disrupted traffic on National Highway 75, halting the movement of heavy vehicles between Bengaluru and Mangaluru.

Triggered by continuous rainfall in Dakshina Kannada district, the incident has affected trucks, buses, and lorries. Smaller vehicles, such as cars and two-wheelers, are being advised to use alternate routes. Police have urged commuters to cooperate with diversions until the debris is cleared.

Restoration work is underway, with teams from the Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India on teh ground. **–BMB**

## Bengaluru police join forces to ease traffic

To address the city's worsening traffic congestion, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Thursday said law and order police personnel will now work in coordination with traffic police to help identify and resolve traffic blackspots across the city.

Speaking at a media interaction at the Press Club, Singh acknowledged the challenge of managing over 1.3 crore registered vehicles, along with thousands of floating ones. He said the traffic police, along with the city's Traffic Management Centre, are prioritising both immediate and long-term measures to streamline movement.

"Patrolling law and order teams often encounter bottlenecks. They will now share real-time inputs with traffic police," he said, adding that this collaboration would enhance the city's ability to address congestion issues at both local and citywide levels. **–BMB**

## 'Mane Manege Police' brings safety home

In a move to strengthen community-friendly policing, the State Home Department is set to launch the 'Mane Manege Police' initiative starting today. The program will be formally inaugurated at 10.30 AM in MC Layout, Govindarajanagar Ward, by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar, Director General and Inspector General of Police Dr MA Salim, and Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.

As part of the initiative, women police officers and staff will visit households in their designated beats to directly engage with residents, especially women and children. The focus will be on listening to grievances, spreading awareness about domestic violence, promoting safety, and offering legal guidance.

To ensure better outreach, each police station has been divided into smaller sub-beats, with staff already assigned. Officers will go door to door to hear concerns and resolve them within legal limits. The department stressed that public cooperation is vital to maintaining law and order and creating a fear-free, safer environment. **–BMB**

## Cathedral 1975-76 reunion shines

Teachers of Cathedral High School were felicitated as the 1975-76 batch gathered at Catholic Club, Bengaluru, on July 17 to mark 50 years of their school journey. The milestone reunion united global alumni in celebrating lifelong friendships and honored mentors who shaped their lifes. **–BMB**

IN HIGH COURT

# Grim warning: AI threatens judiciary

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Justice M Nagaprasanna of the Karnataka High Court issued a stern warning on Wednesday regarding artificial intelligence (AI) usage in judicial proceedings, deeming it a significant risk to legal practice.

During a hearing on X Corp's challenge to the Centre's 'Sahyog' portal, the judge remarked, "The most dangerous thing is using AI to draft or write judgments." The portal facilitates content removal orders that, according to X Corp, bypass the safeguards outlined under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Union government, drew the court's attention to actual instances where AI-generated content was used in court proceedings. He highlighted a case where a lawyer submitted a fictitious judgment generated by AI. Mehta also pointed to other examples of fake citations used to claim legal costs.

Justice Nagaprasanna expressed deep concern about the growing reliance on AI in the legal field. "Too much dependence on that is dangerous, and that's going to destroy the profession itself," he said, adding, "Dependence on artificial intelligence should not make your intelligence artificial."

The observations came during a broader discussion on algorithmic profiling, misinformation, and the scope of intermediary protections under the IT Act.

Mehta argued that platforms like X are not passive intermediaries but profit from user profiling and content amplification. He maintained that the Sahyog portal adheres to Section 69A safeguards and that current circumstances are distinct from the Shreya Singhal ruling context.

X Corp contends that the government is misusing Section 79(3)(b) to create an unauthorised parallel takedown system.

# SC frowns upon bail to Darshan

The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed its reservation over the Karnataka High Court's decision to grant bail to Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa in the Renukaswamy murder case.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said it was "not at all convinced" by the manner in which the high court exercised its discretion while granting bail. The court asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Darshan, to provide "good reasons" why the Supreme Court should not interfere with the order.

"To be very honest with you, we are not convinced with the manner in which the high court has exercised discretion. We will hear you, as your clients are on bail and the matter is one of cancellation," Justice Pardiwala told Sibal.

He also pointed to a section of the high court's order that, in his view, seemed to focus on finding ways to release the accused. "You need to convince us that there is no good reason for this court to interfere," the bench added.

The court asked senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing the Karnataka government, to submit details of any criminal antecedents of the accused at the next hearing scheduled for July 22.

Darshan, actress Pavithra Gowda, and others are accused of abducting and torturing 33-year-old Renukaswamy, who had allegedly sent obscene messages to Gowda. His body was found in a drain in Bengaluru on June 9. The state government moved the top court in January seeking cancellation of the bail granted by the high court in December 2024. **–PTI**

# Rowdy realtor murder: five held

Five accused in the murder of Shivaprakash, a rowdy-sheeter turned realtor, have been arrested after surrendering to the police in the early hours of Thursday.

The accused Kiran (25), Vimal, Pradeep, Madan, and Samuel were produced before a magistrate and remanded to 10 days of police custody.

The prime accused, Jagadisha alias Rowdy Jagga, remains absconding. Police said Shivaprakash and Jagga, once close associates, became rivals over a property dispute in Avalahalli. Investigations revealed that Jagga had been planning the murder for several months and was waiting for the right moment to execute the plan.

Shivaprakash, who faced 11 criminal cases, had been released on bail last week. His family claimed he had received threats and had hired personal security.

Meanwhile, police are issuing a notice to BJP MLA Bhairati Basavaraj for questioning, after the victim's family alleged that the MLA was close to Jagga and influenced his removal from the rowdy list. **–BMB**

# SC questions validity of contempt

The Supreme Court served notice regarding a special leave petition filed by JD(S) MP HD Kumaraswamy against the Karnataka High Court's order concerning ongoing contempt proceedings. The high court's April 17 order, which made him a party to the proceedings, has been temporarily suspended.

The case stems from a writ petition filed by Samaj Parivartana in the High Court, alleging land encroachment by the Union Minister and his family in Kethaganahalli village, Bidadi. The petition referred to a 2011 interim Lokayukta report on illegal encroachments. Although the High Court closed the matter in January 2020 based on an assurance from the State Advocate General, a later state-appointed Special Investigation Team reportedly found preliminary evidence supporting the encroachment claims. Kumaraswamy has dismissed the allegations as a political conspiracy orchestrated by the Congress government.

The High Court initiated contempt proceedings against state officials for failing to act on the Lokayukta's recommendations. Eviction notices were subsequently issued to Kumaraswamy, prompting him to approach the Supreme Court. He argued that he was being evicted despite not being a party to the contempt case.

On March 28, the apex court advised him to seek clarification from the High Court. Although Kumaraswamy filed an application, the High Court included him as a respondent. Senior Advocate Aryaman Sundaram, representing Kumaraswamy, argued that this contradicted the Supreme Court's earlier direction.

The bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and PB Varale questioned the sustainability of the contempt proceedings, particularly after the Lokayukta report was closed due to jurisdictional limits. The matter will be heard again in four weeks. **–BMB**

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FARNAZ

# Getting to the office, inch by inch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

traffic jams. It takes me 30 minutes to reach the main road from Bellandur. Roads remain narrow but the authorities continue allowing construction of new buildings and some of the IT companies have increased seating capacity,'' said Prasad.

Some commuters have complained about the shortage of traffic police to regulate and manage the traffic flow on Outer Ring Road and Sarjapur Road. "We found home guards managing the traffic flow on Sarjapur Road. They are not trained in traffic management. The purpose is not served by engaging home guards to regulate vehicular traffic. The need of the hour is to have a sufficient number of traffic policemen to manage the traffic flow on these crucial stretches,'' said a software engineer on the condition of anonymity.

Expressing a similar opinion, Rajesh, a software engineer, said that commuting on Sarjapur Road has become a Herculean task. "It takes me two hours to reach my workplace at HSR Layout. The traffic police must take some measures to ensure commutes on Sarjapur Road are smoother,'' Rajesh said.

When contacted, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) said that traffic police have been regulating vehicular traffic on Outer Ring Road and Sarjapur Road. On the shortage of traffic policemen, the ACP has said that he could not comment .

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) said that he is handing over the charge to the new official today. "You can speak to her tomorrow,'' the DCP said.

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### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** JEEVAN KAIKONDAHALLI CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA S/O CHANNA BASAVARAJ KADATHANAMALLI VISHWANATHAPPA residing at No 101, Ittana Soupernika, Near South Indian Bank, Kaikondahalli, Bengaluru-560035. I have changed my name to JEEVAN KADATHANAMALLI CHANNA BASAVARAJ. Vide affidavit dated 17-07-2025 sworn before notary. V ANJANAPPA Bengaluru

**I,** MAYA GOPALA KRISHNAN ACHARYA alias MAYA SABURAJ d/o GOPALA KRISHNAN ACHARYA R/at 550,1 Floor, 6 Cross, 1 Stage, 3 Block, HSR Layout, Banaswadi, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-560043 Changed my name to MAAYAA KRISHNAN Vide affidavit dated 17.07.2025 sworn before notary V RANGARAMU

**I,** NAGESHWAR CARAM SETTY R/at 38/8, 2 Cross, K V Layout, Byrasandra, Jayanagar 3 Block, Bangalore 560011 Changed my name to NAGEESHWAR CARAM SETTY. Vide affidavit dated 30.06.2025 sworn before notary. V RANGARAMU

**I** SUNITA wife of Ajmer Singh, Ex CHEAAR, No 197338Y, Indian Navy, resident of H-403, Rohan Jharoka-1, Yemalur, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my Name from SUNITA to SUNITA RANI vide Affidavit dated 16 Jul 2025 at Bengaluru.

**MY** SON, Tarun S ,born on 3rd May 2016 , residing at No. 349, 2nd cross, 1st block R.T.Nagar Bangaluru, shall henceforth be known as Tarun Sreevijay . Vasanthi A(Mother)

**I,** AYESHA ANJUM W/o Mr. Aslam Pasha, Residing at No. 462/B, 1st Cross, Thanisandra Main Road, R. K. Hegdenagar, Bangalore - 560 077, have changed my daughter's name from SYEDA HAFIZA to HAFIZA TAJ vide Affidavit dt. 26.05.2025. sworn before notary Chandrashekara, Bengaluru.

**I,** T SANGEETH, S/o KP Shivashankar, resident of A 404, Asha Apartment, Kalinga Rao Road, Jalahalli, Bengaluru 560013, have changed my name from T SANGEETH to SANGEETH THACHAT vide Affidavit No.IN-KA89118053919244x dated 15-07-2025 at Bengaluru.

**I,** Nitin Kumar Jajodia S/o Anand Prakash Jajodia R/o 5510, Vedavati Block Nandi Enclave Bhuvaneshwari Nagar B'lore-560085 have changed my name to Nitin Jajodia

**I,** ARUN KARTHIK S/O RAJESH RAMANAN residing at No 49/4, Prakruthi Manor, 13th Main, Ganganagar, Bengaluru 560024. I have changed my name to ARUN KARTHIK RAJESH. Vide affidavit dated 17-07-2025 sworn before notary. S N MADHU Bengaluru

**I,** Raju Shivaputrappa Khangavi R/o #6, GF, Balaji Layout, Near Kalpathru Monarch Apts B'lore-560094 have changed my minor daughter name from Ritika to Ritika Khangavi

**I,** Mushtak Begum R/o No 24, 5th Cross Rt Nagar Bangalore 560032 Have Changed My Name From Mushthak Begum to Mushtak Begum For all Purposes.

**I,** Afroz pasha Riyaz pasha S/o S.P Riyaz pasha R/o No 5, 4th main road New Gurupan Palya. Bangalore 560029 have changed my name to Afroz pasha for all purposes

**I,** RADHIKA NILESHWAR, 388/B, 12th Cross, 4th D Main, Opp. Medzone, Mahalakshmi puram, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560086 have changed my name to RADHIKA GERSAPPA vide affidavit dated: 16-07-2025 before notary Natesh D, B.lore.

**I,** Hema S W/o, Raghunandan G R/o No 24, 1st And 2nd Floor, Brindavan Road, Ramanjaneya Nagar, Chikkalasandra, bengaluru 560061. have changed my name to Hema S Raghunandan for all purposes.

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# Sweet nothings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Small shops in other areas of the locality are also selling these candies.

Another parent from Chikkabettahalli says they noticed the candies a few weeks ago in the area.

"I saw children buying these candies four to five weeks back. These children were from a government school right opposite the shop selling them. At least five to six shops in the area are selling these candies," they told BM.

Parents say they are worried as children, driven by natural curiosity and lack of awareness, may mistakenly consume actual prescription medicines, believing them to be sweets. This confusion can lead to accidental ingestion of powerful prescription drugs, which can be extremely dangerous and even life-threatening.

"While the candies may seem fun and appealing, they can be dangerous. I am a 1980s kid, and I remember getting hooked on the cigarette candies. Children now roam around with pocket money and can purchase these candies and get used to them. This may also lead to accidental intake of prescription-based drugs, as these candies have an uncanny resemblance. I have a nine-year-old child, and this concerns me. Parents, while aware of the issue, have been worried about taking it up with the shopkeepers. We do not know who is manufacturing or supplying these items," said another parent.

## Risks involved

Healthcare experts say exposure to pill-shaped candies, especially syringe-shaped ones, may desensitise children to the concept of syringes, promoting risky behaviors, including drug misuse, later in life.

City-based healthcare experts say adult medications are formulated for mature bodies and can have toxic effects on children, even in small doses. For instance, drugs meant for blood pressure, diabetes, or pain relief can cause serious complications such as seizures, respiratory distress, or liver damage in children. The issue becomes more critical in households where medications are not stored safely out of children's reach.

"We urge parents to be extra cautious and store all medicines in locked cabinets, educate children about the dangers of unknown substances, and try to avoid buying sweets that resemble tablets. Manufacturers also have a role to play in ensuring child safety by designing candies that are distinct from medicine in both form and packaging," said Dr. Gunda Srinivas, consultant, Paediatrics Emergency and Paediatrics, Aster RV Hospital.

## Tablet candies should be probed: KAMS

D Shashikumar, general secretary, Association of Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), says such products will normalise substance and injection-related imagery. The content of the 'candies' should be probed to rule out any bigger and sinister plans.

"Candies in the shape and form of prescribed medications will leave a bad influence on children. Syringes filled with chocolate cream today might normalise drug injections in the minds of children. Moreover, the candies, even if free of any substance today, might be sold as drugs and confuse parents as well. This can be a technique by drug sellers, and their long-term goal is to sell illegal items. These tablets should be checked for micro adulteration. Drug control and health departments should probe into the matter," said Shashikumar, who is also the director at Brain Center, Educational Research Center in the city.

**Fast car —** 'Harry Potter' star Emma Watson might not be driving in the UK for a while. The 35-year-old actress has been banned from driving for six months after breaking traffic rules, according to Deadline. Reports suggest that Watson, 35, was caught speeding in July last year

BangaloreMirror | 9
Friday, July 18, 2025
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

# 'Ekka is an excellent commercial entertainer'

Ekka, billed as the first Kannada movie to be bankrolled by three prestigious film production houses in recent times, is scheduled for release on July 18. The movie is produced by PRK Productions, Jayanna Films, and KRG Studios.

According to Yogi G Raj of KRG Studios, Ekka has all the elements needed for the current generation. "We agreed to bankroll the movie when director Rohith Padaki narrated the script which was very interesting. We were also mulling over bankrolling a movie with Yuva Rajkumar in the lead," said Raj.

He said the success of the movie's trailer and the song Bangle Bangari has proved the movie's potential. "I am sure Ekka will cater to the needs of the audiences, especially those from middle-class families. The movie is about a middle-class youth. We can relate to the hero while watching the movie at theaters," he said.

Happy to be one of the producers, Jayanna of Jayanna Films, said he has bankrolled more than 25 and distributed around 300 movies till date. "It is the first time three production houses have joined hands to make a Kannada movie. I have already watched the movie and it is very good. The movie is about a middle-class youth who comes to Bengaluru from a village. The movie has a message to those who come to the city from rural areas about what to do and what not to do. Songs and the trailer of the movie have become popular among all ," said Jayanna.

"Ekka promises to be an excellent commercial entertainer with a fantastic narrative. It balances gripping emotions, powerful dialogues, and groovy music – and of course, the Bangle Bangari song is a massive hit. We can't wait to see the audience's reaction to the film," says Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar.

# DANCE LIKE THERE IS NO TOMORROW

## Pooja talks about most physically demanding song of her career

Actress Pooja Hegde, whose graceful dance moves for the sensational superhit song 'Monica' from Rajinikanth's 'Coolie' has come in for widespread praise, has now disclosed that the song was one of the most physically tough and demanding songs that she had done in her career.

The actress also went on to disclose that she had danced the high energy number on a day she had been fasting for Mahashivratri.

Taking to Instagram to share BTS clips of the song shoot, the actress wrote, "Thank you for all the love on Monica. Monica was one of the MOST physically toughest and demanding song of my career."

She went on to say, "Trying to combat the extreme heat, sun burn that's left tan lines for months to come…. humidity, the dust, blisters and high energy dance moves (my first hectic dance shoot after my ligament tear).. and after all that, still making sure it looks glamourous and effortless was the key. I gave my all to Monica and it's gonna be a blast to watch in the theatres, I promise. Dance away."

The actress made it a point to remember her co-dancers, who danced along with her in the song. She said, "Special shout out to the dancers who stood by me in this task and gave me energy through all that especially on the Mahashivratri day when I was fasting. You'll were just amazingggg. #monica #coolie."

The song, which has already emerged a chartbuster, has been trending ever since the makers released the dance number. In fact, Sun Pictures, the production house producing the film had on Wednesday disclosed that the song had already garnered 21 million views. **—IANS**

# Kriti it is

Kiara Advani was officially announced to play the female lead in 'Don 3' opposite Ranveer Singh. However, as the actress got pregnant, she had to exit from the film. There were speculations about who would replace the Kiara. Rumours were rife that Kriti Sanon has been cast after Kiara's exit from the film. Now it is finally confirmed. Farhan Akhtar's production house has confirmed Kriti as the lead.

In a statement, they said, "Farhan Akhtar is also preparing for his next directorial venture, Don 3, which is expected to go on floors in January 2026. The film will feature Ranveer Singh and Kriti Sanon in leading roles."

Kiara and Siddharth Malhotra just became parents to a baby girl. The couple officially announced the news on their social media.

Meanwhile, as far as 'Don 3' is concerned, the statement further noted that the search for the villain continues.

It said, "Casting for the film is underway, with the makers reportedly in talks with a top A-list actor to take on the intense antagonist role."

This statement regarding the casting of the antagonist comes amidst reports about Vikrant Massey and Vijay Deverakonda rejecting the project due to concerns with the script. Reports suggest that the negative character lacks depth and that was the reason behind Vikrant's exit from the film.

While the film will go on floors in January 2026, at the moment, Ranveer is busy with Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar'. The makers dropped the first look of the movie on Ranveer's birthday on July 6. The film is set to release on December 5. **—ETimes**

# With a bit of luck

As Siddhant Chaturvedi gears up for the release of 'Dhadak 2,' he shared insights about his character and emphasised that success in the film industry often hinges on a stroke of luck.

Talking to Bollywood Bubbles, Siddhant reflected on the privilege of playing Neelesh in 'Dhadak 2,' emphasizing how rare such opportunities are in an acting career. He expressed that being chosen for meaningful roles feels humbling and makes him appreciate the support from his parents. He acknowledged that receiving scripts like these supports the feeling that "there is some power up there," and admitted, "Maybe I'm a bit lucky."

He explained that while talent and hard work are essential to entering any industry, luck also plays a significant role. He feels blessed and fortunate to have been chosen by the producers and director for the role. With the film turning out well, he hopes this privilege continues and that he receives more roles that challenge him as an actor and help him grow as a person.

'Dhadak 2' is a romantic drama set to release on August 1, 2025. Directed by Shazia Iqbal and produced by Dharma Productions, Zee Studios, and Cloud 9 Pictures, it is a spiritual sequel to the 2018 film 'Dhadak' and a remake of the Tamil film 'Pariyerum Perumal.' The film stars Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri in lead roles, portraying a love story challenged by societal barriers and caste discrimination. **—ETimes**

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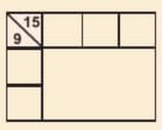
## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

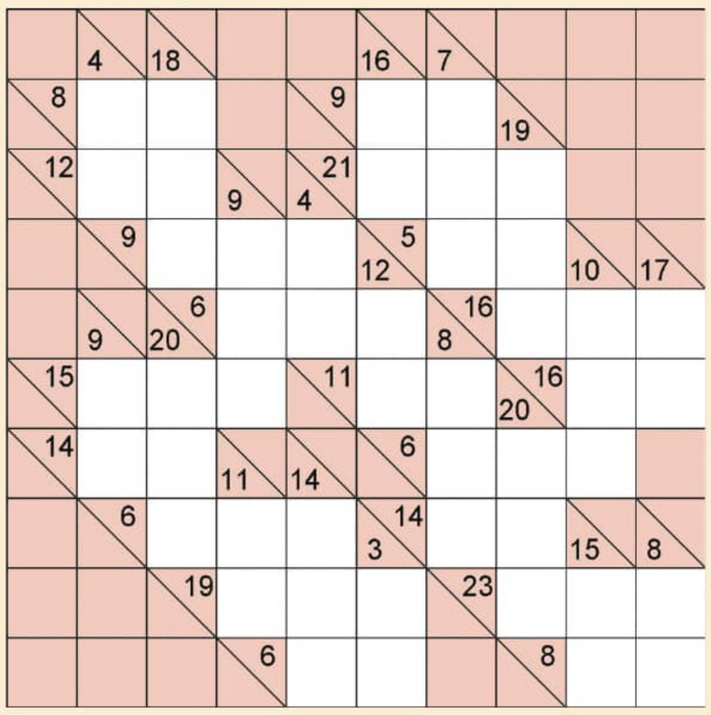
Subtracting 4 from 3 times a number gives the same result as adding 2 to 2 times the number. What is the number?

## Kakuro

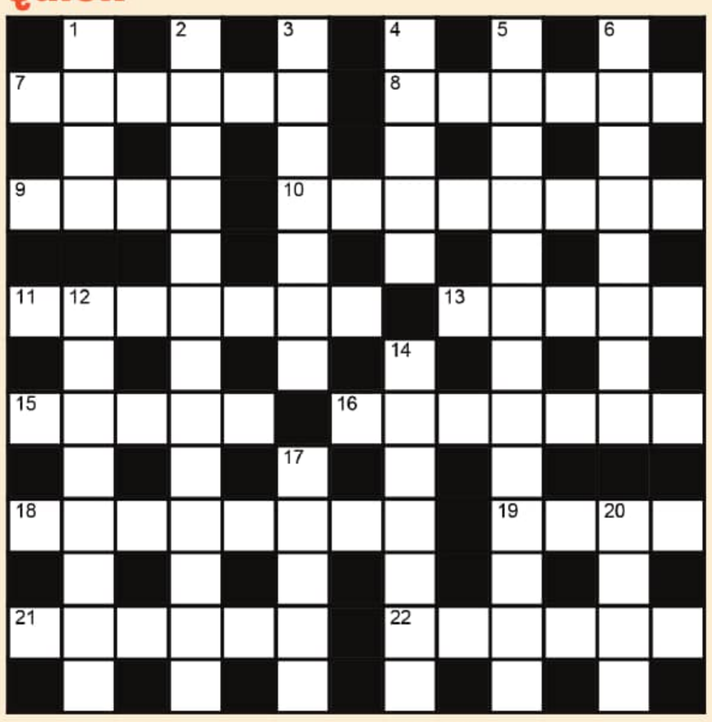
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 A cave or cavern (6)
8 Tea variety (6)
9 Harry Potter actress ___ Watson (4)
10 Sets of artificial teeth (8)
11 Perspired (7)
13 Aussie music group __ __ Work (3,2)
15 Operatic airs (5)
16 School eatery (7)
18 Decathlon event (4,4)
19 Rotate (4)
21 Moral and social decay? (3-3)
22 US desert state (6)

**DOWN**

1 Baby carriage (4)
2 Our High Court is also known by this name (6,7)
3 Hooligans (7)
4 Porcelain (5)
5 Quarrelsome (13)
6 Avoid humiliation, preserve esteem? (4,4)
12 Distinguished fighters (8)
14 Striking light blows (7)
17 Golf strokes (5)
20 Frees or relieves from (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS G**

QTXXMDQ XA K FBKIT
AS IAZSAEX IKD YT ODI-
AZSAEXKYBT.

## Linemaro

Are you an interior decorator?
When I saw you, the room became beautiful

## Mindchow

There is no past that we can bring back by longing for it. There is only an eternally new now that builds and creates itself out of the best as the past withdraws

## Joke of the day

What does the word 'meteorologist' mean in English?
It means 'liar'

## Loop

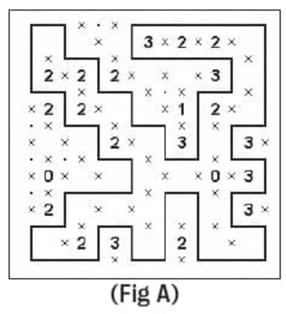
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

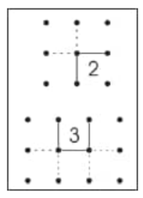
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

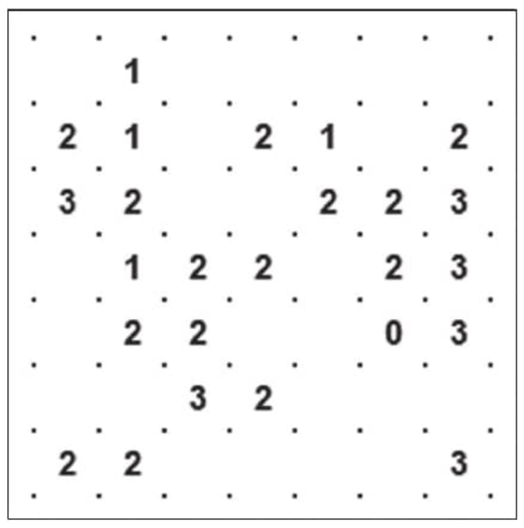
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



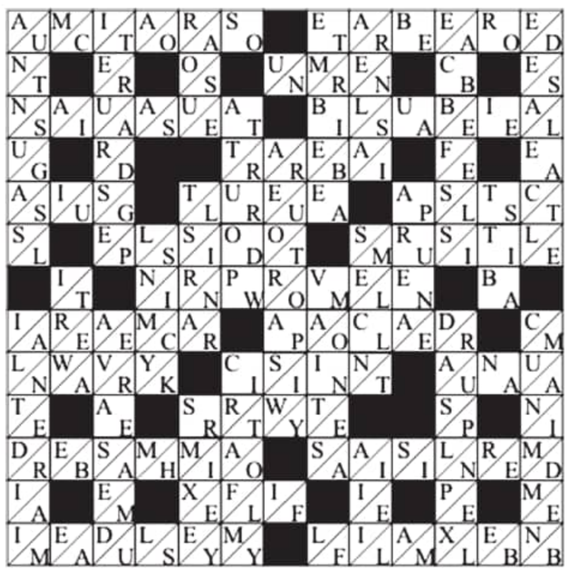
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



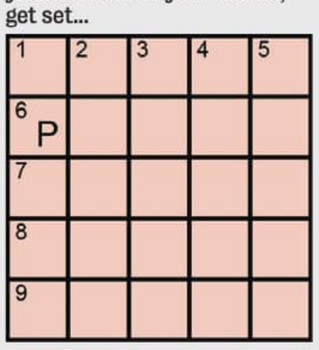
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

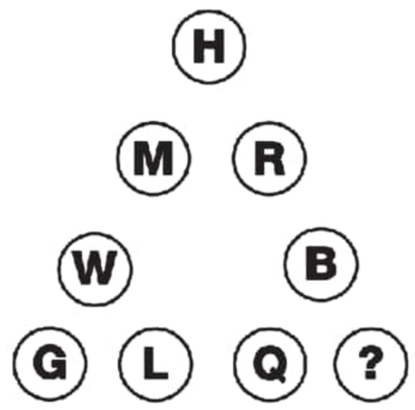
1 SS Cab; 6 Awl pi;
7 So ere; 8 Radio;
9 Lifer

**DOWN**

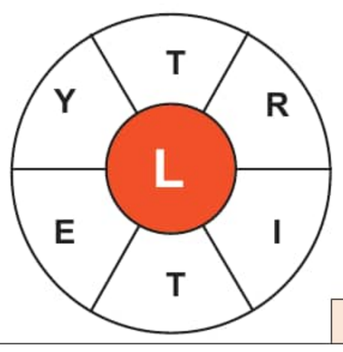
1 Reaps; 2 Ric IR;
3 Of Lao; 4 Bails;
5 Weeds

## Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**05** Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | | | 1 | | | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | | | 4 | 9 | 6 | | | 2 |
| | | | | 5 | | | | |
| 2 | | 9 | | | | 6 | | 8 |
| | | 8 | | | | 4 | | |
| 4 | | 3 | | | | 2 | | 5 |
| | | | | 7 | | | | |
| 9 | | | 5 | 4 | 3 | | | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | | | 8 | | | 5 | 6 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

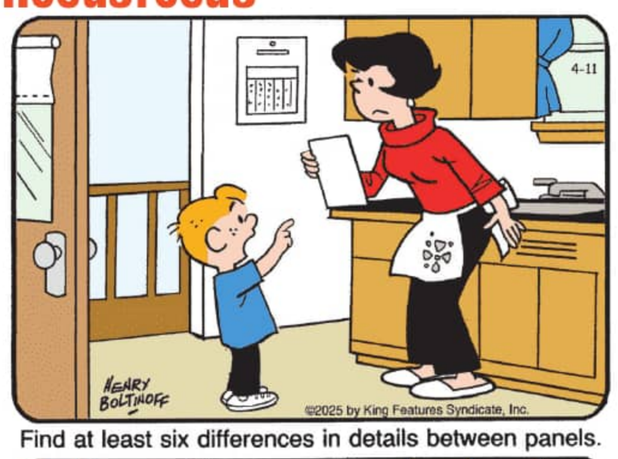
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 23
3 6 7 7

**Medium** = 6
1 2 4 7

**Hard** = 35
2 4 9 9

## Hocusfocus




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

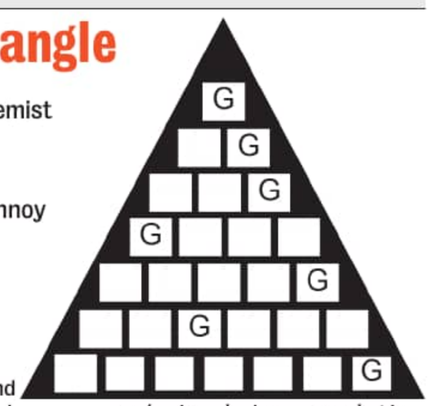
**Differences:** 1. Doorknob is missing. 2. Window shade replaces curtain. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Railing is different. 5. Upper cabinet is missing. 6. Boy's mouth is different.

## Riddler

A quick look, a money book. The servers brought the bills in. King threatened by a rook, But not someone from Pilsen? What is it?

## Alpha triangle

1 7th letter
2 Silver for the chemist
3 Harass verbally
4 Obtain more
5 Mimicry
6 Calling over a tannoy
7 Breathless

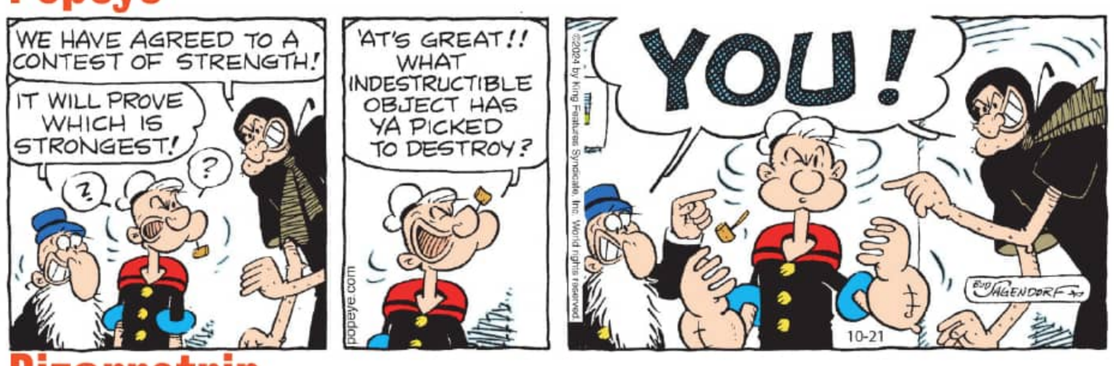



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

# COMICS

## Popeye


WE HAVE AGREED TO A CONTEST OF STRENGTH!
IT WILL PROVE WHICH IS STRONGEST!
'AT'S GREAT!! WHAT INDESTRUCTIBLE OBJECT HAS YA PICKED TO DESTROY?
YOU!
popeye.com
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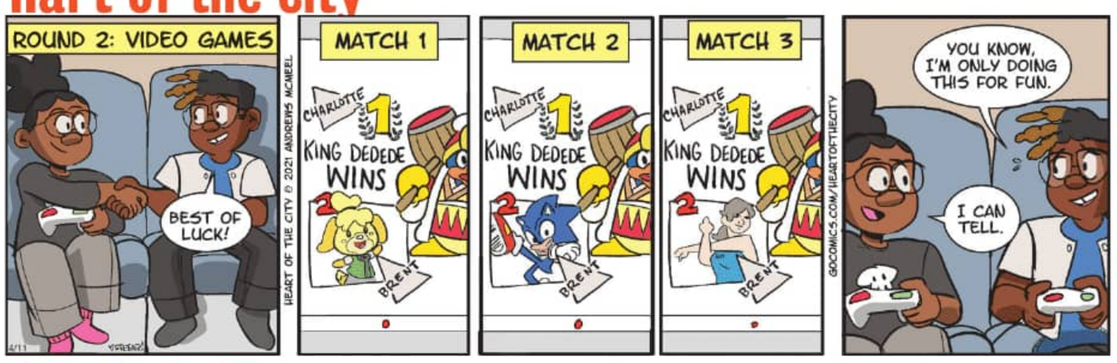
BUD SAGENDORF
10-21

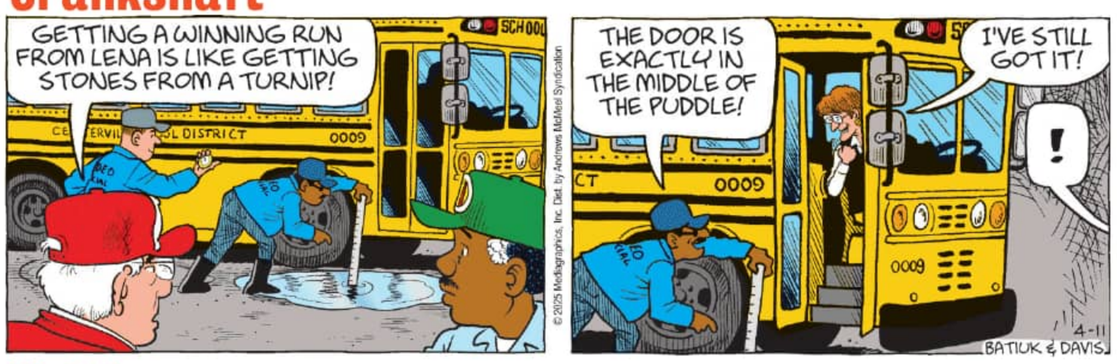
## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city




## Crankshaft


GETTING A WINNING RUN FROM LENA IS LIKE GETTING STONES FROM A TURNIP!
SCHOOL
0009
THE DOOR IS EXACTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PUDDLE!
I'VE STILL GOT IT!
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may spend money on family matters, which could strain your financial stability. Avoid unnecessary or impulsive purchases. Think twice before speaking or acting, especially in sensitive situations. Controlling your bluntness will help maintain harmony both at work and at home.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
A positive day awaits you. Good news from a sibling could uplift your spirits. Jobseekers may find suitable opportunities. Spiritual energy may guide you to make the right decisions. Your focus improves, and students are likely to perform well in their studies.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel low today, with health or emotional concerns affecting your clarity. Decision-making might feel challenging, and self-doubt could impact your social image. Trust your intuition and avoid taking risks, especially in travel or adventurous activities. Be gentle with yourself.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today is favorable for gains. Your intelligence may help turn past losses into profits. You might invest in learning or spiritual causes and feel the urge to help others. Donating to charity or a religious place may bring peace. Students may excel in academics.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your professional performance will shine today. Support from seniors or bosses could lead to new opportunities. Jobseekers are likely to receive favorable offers. Singles may find romantic interest at their workplace. Make the most of this productive phase.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Fortune favors you today. You'll handle situations effortlessly, boosting your confidence. A visit to a spiritual place or charitable donation may be on your mind. A short business trip is possible. Family support could help love birds move forward with marriage plans.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel physically and emotionally drained today. Minor health issues could disrupt your routine. Self-reflection may lead to important realizations. In the evening, support from elders could help you overcome negativity. Focus on regaining inner peace.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may receive profitable business orders today. Your innovative ideas could benefit your work significantly. New partnerships are likely to form. However, a busy schedule may cause mental fatigue, affecting your personal life. Balance work and rest.

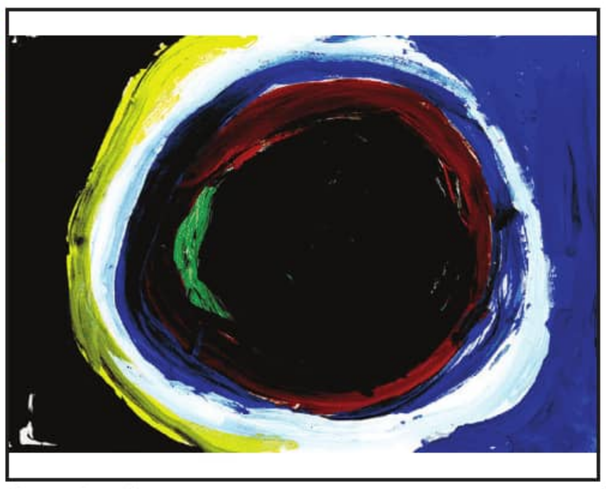
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
A good day for career growth. Colleagues will be supportive, and you'll likely complete pending tasks. Lending money for productive purposes could prove beneficial. Job seekers may receive offers. Those with lingering health issues may experience relief.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Situations begin to stabilize, and people around you may now offer support. Avoid feeling burdened or discouraged—stay strong and adaptable. Elderly guidance can help you navigate lingering challenges. Your clarity improves as confusion regarding goals fades.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your patience may be tested today. Mood swings and mental fog might cause delays or errors. Love life could feel unsettled due to overthinking. Don't place unrealistic expectations on your partner. Focus on nurturing your bond and care for your parents. Students should stay focused.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
With the support of your team or subordinates, you can clear up long-pending tasks. Networking opportunities will expand, benefiting your professional and social life. An outing with siblings or friends may be refreshing. Disputes with neighbors may be peacefully resolved. Students should overcome laziness and stay disciplined.

## KIDZONE



Shagun, Bengaluru

Aditthi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
3x-4 = 2x + 2
3x -2x = 2 + 4
x = 6

**BULL'S EYE**
litter, lyre, rely, rile, tile, tilt, title, TRITELY

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | E | D | L | E | Y | ■ | F | L | A | X | E | N |
| I | ■ | E | ■ | E | L | F | ■ | I | ■ | E | ■ | E |
| R | E | S | H | M | A | ■ | S | A | I | L | E | D |
| T | ■ | A | ■ | S | T | Y | E | ■ | P | ■ | I | ■ |
| N | A | R | K | ■ | I | S | N | T | ■ | U | N | A |
| A | R | E | C | A | ■ | P | A | C | E | D | ■ | M |
| ■ | T | ■ | I | N | W | O | V | E | N | ■ | B | ■ |
| L | ■ | E | L | I | O | T | ■ | S | U | S | I | E |
| A | U | G | ■ | T | R | U | E | ■ | P | S | S | T |
| U | ■ | D | ■ | ■ | R | A | B | I | ■ | E | ■ | E |
| N | A | U | S | E | A | ■ | I | S | A | B | E | L |
| N | ■ | R | ■ | O | ■ | U | R | N | ■ | B | ■ | E |
| A | C | T | O | R | S | ■ | T | A | B | A | R | D |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | S | ■ | G | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | S | ■ |
| D | R | Y | R | O | T | ■ | N | E | V | A | D | A | ■ |
| O | ■ | E | ■ | T | ■ | I | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | ■ | I | ■ |
| H | I | G | H | J | U | M | P | ■ | T | U | R | N | ■ |
| R | ■ | C | ■ | P | ■ | P | A | ■ | T | E | E | N | ■ |
| A | R | I | A | S | ■ | C | A | N | T | ■ | C | ■ | ■ |
| A | ■ | K | ■ | S | ■ | T | ■ | N | ■ | B | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | W | E | A | T | E | D | ■ | M | E | N | A | T | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | R | ■ | I | ■ | A | ■ | M | ■ | F | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | M | M | A | ■ | D | E | N | T | U | R | E | S | ■ |
| A | ■ | T | ■ | W | ■ | I | ■ | G | ■ | V | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| G | R | O | T | T | O | ■ | H | E | R | B | A | L | ■ |
| P | ■ | A | ■ | R | ■ | C | ■ | A | ■ | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
Start at the top, and work through the triangle in horizontal rows, from top to bottom, left to right. Letters move through the alphabet 5 letters at a time.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Getting to a place of comfort can be uncomfortable.

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
G, AG, NAG, GAIN, APING, PAGING, GASPING.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
7 + 7 + 3 + 6 = 23
Medium
7 – 4 x 1 x 2 = 6
Hard
9 + 2 x 4 – 9 = 35

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

**RIDDLER**
Check

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | A | B | S |
| P | I | L | A | W |
| E | R | O | S | E |
| A | R | O | I | D |
| R | I | F | L | E |

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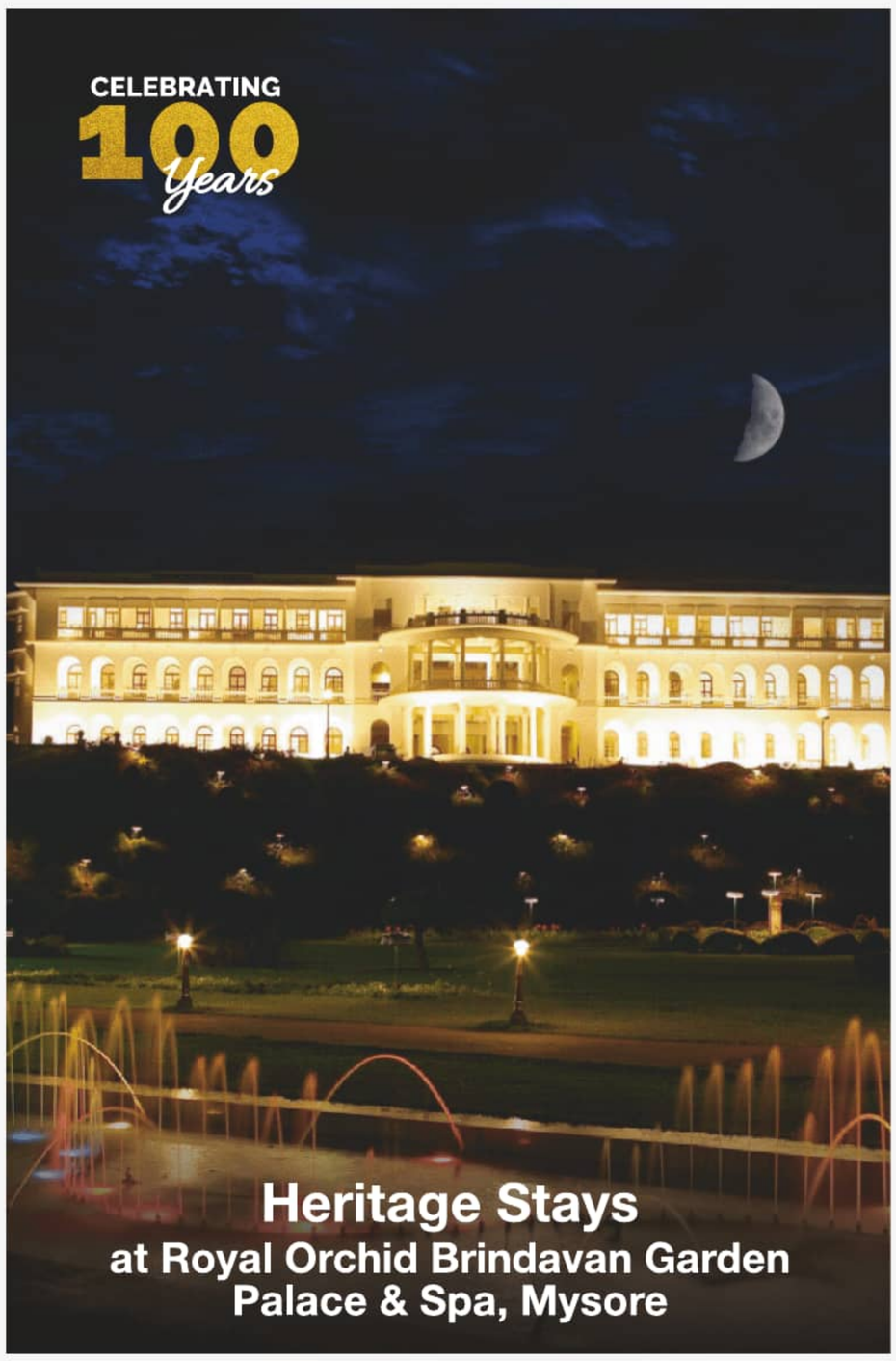
ROYAL ORCHID HOTELS | RE:GEN:TA HOTELS



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